

## DESERT COMMUNITIES WATER AWARENESS EXPO COMES TO THE HD HOME SHOW



You've visited their booth for years at the spring home show, but this fall the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC) will also bring their Desert Communities Water Awareness Expo to the 30th Annual High Desert Home Improvement and Lifestyle Show, from November 7-9, at the Fairgrounds in Victorville.

"In the spring we are geared toward landscaping," said Donna McCormick, Victorville Water Conservation Super-

visor, "but with winter approaching, and California being in this severe drought, we thought this would be a great opportunity for educating our residents on the importance of winterizing and how to go about it."

McCormick says there will be numerous experts from several of AWAC's 30 agencies, such as the Victorville Water District, Apple Valley Ranchos, Hesperia and Adelanto water companies, and San Bernardino County Special Districts, leading hands-on demonstrations on how to winterize your home, including installing pipe insulation, replacing a toilet flapper, and installing a drip irrigation system.

Proper winterization of your home will not only save money on costly repairs from broken pipes, but it can prevent drips that will freeze and turn into ice hazards.

The booth will also host a "hydrologic cycle" model, which shows how water circulates through the natural process.

You'll see a toilet flush comparison between the older models using 3.5 gallons of water per flush versus high efficiency toilets (HET) using only 1.28 gallons. As a special bonus, an HET toilet will be raffled off at the end of the Expo.

There will also be prizes raffled off every hour; a fun area just for kids with games and giveaways; staff to answer your questions; and informational videos and handouts covering a variety of water awareness topics.

So while you're at the home show, be sure to visit the Water Awareness Expo in building 4. For more information, contact your local water provider or visit [www.hdawac.org](http://www.hdawac.org).

It's important to be water aware!

## VOLUNTEERS TURN OUT IN NEAR RECORD NUMBERS TO CLEAN UP CITY STREETS

Nearly 900 volunteers participated in the October 25th Victorville Community Cleanup Day, making it one of the most successful events to date!

"There were 772 volunteers signed up by the t-shirt deadline, with more than a hundred coming onboard right up to the event day," said John Garcia, Victorville Code Enforcement Officer and Community Cleanup event coordinator.

Teams of volunteers are formed from local schools, churches, businesses, non-profit organizations and clubs, families, neighbors, friends and individuals. This year's group spanned an amazing age range from 3 to 80!

When the day was over, teams had collected a whopping 10.76 tons of trash and litter from 32 locations around the City, as well as reporting tires, mattresses, cans of motor oil, furniture, shopping carts, etc., for staff to.

The next semi-annual Victorville Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015.

*October's event was sponsored by Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, American Landscape & Maintenance, Inc., American Organics, the Daily Press, Cemex, Desert Valley Medical Group, El Clasificado, Helping Hands Realty, Mojave River Watershed Group, Park University, Plastipak Packaging, Inc., San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Servpro, Shear Realty, Sierra Vista, Southwest Gas, Splattered Ink, USAgain, Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Victor Valley College, and Victorville Disposal, a Burrtec Company.*



## BUSTER THE BAG MONSTER MAKES HIS PUBLIC DEBUT



Buster is made from over 200 plastic bags, representing the number of bags the average household brings home in just six months. His 'mission in life' is to encourage people to help save the environment by using reusable bags.

The first Victor Valley Environmental Awareness Day, held on October 18, was the perfect event for Buster to make his public debut. He joined representatives from 20 local environmental organizations and government agencies at the Mall of Victor Valley, to meet with the public and help enlighten them about the various programs, services and incentives available.

"We want to get as much information in the hands of the public about how they can help keep our environment clean, while also saving money," said Monica Petersen, marketing coordinator for the City of Victorville.

The event was a big success and the City hopes to make it an annual event.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Creosote

#### *Larrea tridentata*

- Plant: Evergreen Shrub
- Water Use: Very Low
- Mature Size: 6-12' tall & 8' wide
- Exposure: Full sun
- Bloom Time: Peak bloom Spring and Winter (Nov.—May); sporadic rest of the year
- Native to: California, Utah, Arizona to West Texas and Mexico
- Hardiness: Cold hardy to 5°F



Creosote survives on its own in the hottest, driest deserts of the southwest US, but when invited into a landscaped setting, this open-branching plant will surprise you as it will become a more full, rounded shrub with dense foliage. Sometimes called greasewood, this very long-lived, aromatic shrub is what gives the desert its distinctive smell after a rain. Lemon yellow flowers or fuzzy white seeds may appear most of the year, although Creosote blooms most profusely in spring. Although it needs water after it's established, extra summer water will speed up growth, but overwatering or fertilizer will kill it. Creosote can be pruned into a multiple-trunk, tree-like form, or trimmed like a hedge to stimulate denser branching and more lush foliage. A great evergreen screen or border hedge, or as an accent for xeriscape and cactus gardens.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Shred-Fest**  
**November 1**  
8 a.m. - Noon

- Shredding of confidential documents
- Drop off recyclables materials
- Compost/mulch giveaway
- Reusable bags to the first 200 cars

**Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility**  
**17000 Abbey Lane, Victorville**



DESERT COMMUNITIES  
WATER AWARENESS EXPO

**Water Awareness Expo**

**November 7 - 9**

At the 30th Annual High Desert Home Improvement Show at the Fairgrounds in Victorville.

## Veterans' Day Parade and Freedom Mile Run



**November 11**

Run starts 8:45 am - Parade at 9:00 am

**The Run starts and ends at Forrest & 7th.**

**The Parade starts at Tracy & 7th and ends at Forrest and 7th.**

**For information call : 760-245-5551**



**Victorville Tree Lighting Ceremony**

**December 3rd**

**7 pm - 9 pm**  
**at City Hall**

## The Green Scene

This newsletter is produced by the Environmental Programs Division of the Community Services Department, City of Victorville. For more information about any of our programs, please contact:

Recycling at 760-955-8615 and/or  
Water Conservation at 866-955-4426

[VictorvilleRecycles.com](http://VictorvilleRecycles.com)

[VictorvilleWater.com](http://VictorvilleWater.com)

City of Victorville

<http://victorvilleca.gov>